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PelhamNEWS

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inside

MUCH TO DO ON MARCH BREAK

There's plenty in store for Pelham's children to keep them busy during the upcoming March break from school.

As they have in past years, both the town and the library are presenting activities — possibly averting that boredom question: "Mom, what can I do?"

See Page 8 and 9

GOODBYE: Cheryl Miclette ending nearly 40-year career

Town clerk files for retirement

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

Almost 40 years ago, Cheryl Miclette, then a recent graduate of E.L. Crossley Secondary School's business program, began to field phone calls as a receptionist for the Town of Pelham.

At the end of March, she will hang up her phone as the town's clerk after holding administrative assistant positions in every department. She even was acting chief administrative officer.

"It was an honour to serve the community and it was a pleasure," she said. "Because you moved through the corporation, the job it was always exciting."

Over the years, since her September 1970 start, Miclette served as cashier, water and hydro billing clerk, payroll clerk, acted as administrative assistant with the planning, recreation, finance and fire departments as well as deputy clerk and clerk.

"I went from the bottom to the top and back down," she said about her few months as acting CAO between the departure of Gordon Cherney to the hiring of

current CAO Martin Yamich two years ago.

"As jobs opened up, I moved up to the next position," she said. "You learned on the fly, often from the person who was leaving."

Most residents of Pelham have probably dealt with Miclette at her office.

"If anyone wants anything, they come into the clerk's department to get it," she said.

She's the one who takes the minutes at council meetings and provides the expertise on procedural questions such as whether a motion is in order. The clerk oversees Pelham's municipal elections, playing the same role as a returning officer in provincial and federal elections.

Miclette said the major challenge for the clerk's office in 2010 will be the municipal election. It involves preparing ballots and notices, briefing candidates and after the election guiding winners on their role as councillors.

She said 2003 may have been the last election for her department, when it came to election for new members of council.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Pelham town clerk Cheryl Miclette has spent nearly 40 years doing paperwork for the municipality. At the end of March, she will retire from a varied career that began as working as a receptionist and included serving as acting chief administrative officer.

"It was a big change, we had six new people to introduce into the system," she said.

The staff in the municipal

building has more than doubled over the years.

See TOWN CLERK | Page 2

See Inside: **PURPO'S**
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■ TOWN CLERK

Miclette sees town, laws, technology change

FROM PAGE 1

It has spread through a building that once included Pelham Public Library.

Pelham's population has grown from about 10,000 when she started to about 16,200 today.

"Fenwick was pretty well rural with no subdivisions," she said. "Woodstream subdivision in Fonthill only started in the 1970s."

Added to the growth in the town was an increase in provincial legislation affecting municipalities, she said. It led to more staff to meet the requirements of that legislation.

Part of her job today is a daily check of the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing websites.

"That's something I won't miss," she said with a smile.

"The change in the date of the municipal election took us by surprise" when it moved from early November to late October.

"You have to be up to date with the new legislation," she said. "If you don't go on the websites you might be behind on the changes."

The clerk's office is responsible for ensuring bylaws stay current and alerting council if they require updating or are expiring. Miclette has sat through years of town council meetings. She isn't in the thick of discussions the way councillors are but she has to follow discussions closely as she takes notes for the minutes.

"Pelham has not been a municipality that has had a lot of controversy over the years," she said. "And that's a good thing."

Councillors learn to work together, with the exception of one or two individuals, she said.

"The construction of a new library was a hot button for a long time," she said of one issue that stands out.

"My job is to keep them on track and give them direction," she said about her advisory role. "I have never had any trouble from councillors that I remember."

Throughout her career, Miclette has seen changes in technology as a continuing issue.

"When I started we were printing council minutes with a Gestetner," she said referring to a sharp-smelling ink from a copying machine.

Pelham got into computers early in the early 1980s with a Wang system, and has been continually upgrading since. For her and staff it involved many courses and workshops at Niagara College as hardware systems and software programs evolved.

"If you don't keep up with the technology, you're left in the dust," she said of municipal administration.

After she retires Miclette may take over cooking from her husband, Yvon, prepare for her daughter Nicole's wedding and keep track of her son Steve at the University of Waterloo.

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■ SHORTHILLS VILLA: Celebrating a new addition



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Caroline Dilamater, left, and Moly Rogers 10-year residents of Shorthills Villa Retirement Community hold a ribbon for the official opening of the villa's new 18-unit addition and renovations to its lounge, lobby and dining room. Cutting the ribbon is Mayor Dave Augustyn with owners Jenan and Mike Hassani. The addition increases the number of units at Shorthills Villa on Pelham St. in Fonthill to 59. Shorthills is celebrating its 10th year of operation.

■ SPENDING: \$115,000 remaining from 2009

Budget surplus recommended be applied to hospital, CIP

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNews Staff

A town budget surplus from 2009 will be divided among a property loan, the Welland hospital and a downtown revamping incentive fund. The town ended the year with a \$111,500 surplus partly because of economic conditions that reduced demand for some services.

Treasurer Carl Puppo recommended Monday that \$40,000 go to pay down the principal of a loan for east Fonthill land the town bought at Regional Rd. 20 and Rice Rd. She also suggested putting \$50,000 into a community improvement fund that will increase it to \$100,000. Welland Hospital Foundation would receive \$20,000 and the

balance of \$1,500 would go into a working fund reserve to cover and unexpected adjustment.

Ward 2 Coun. Sharon Cook said she was pleased to see the \$50,000 put into the community improvement plan reserve.

"There are a number of businesses just waiting to make use of it."

The CIP money will be used to assist businesses to make improvements on their downtown properties in Fonthill and Fenwick. Earlier the town put \$50,000 into the fund. The \$100,000 total is eligible for matching funds from Niagara Region for business people who applied to make improvements.

"This will get things moving in the downtown core," she said.

Christine Gazzola
Sonia Representative

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■ localbrief

TOWN GOING RED ON FRIDAYS

Forget dress-down Fridays. Pelham will join St. Catharines in asking its residents to go red at the end of the work week. In a letter to town council, St. Catharines city council suggests Canadians wear red on Fridays "as a visible sign of support for our Canadian military."

St. Catharines says local Royal Canadian Legion branches encourage their members to wear red on Fridays. Without discussion Pelham council supported the initiative.

She said she is pleased see \$20,000 go to the hospital, however, she said council should build in a regular donation to the foundation, which buys equipment for the hospital — which Ward 3's Peter Papp indicated support for. Provincial funding to hospitals does not cover new equipment.

Mayor Dave Augustyn called the distribution of the surplus prudent and consistent. He said paying down on the principal of the loan was a reinvestment in the property.

The contribution to the hospital foundation shows a consistency that stretches over 26 years. He said other communities served by the hospital do not make regular contributions.

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■ KINSMEN: 2009 citizen of the year celebrated

Hilyer hailed

WAYNE CAMPBELL
 PelhamNEWS Staff

Gail Hilyer told a tale about young figure skaters from almost 70 years ago during a dinner to honour her as the 2009 Pelham citizen of the year.

The skaters' instructor tried to turn four- and five-year-old skaters into a garden as a backdrop for a figure skating show.

"Try as she may, there was one little girl the instructor couldn't fashion into a daffodil. She kept falling down. Finally, the coach sat her down and called her a teddy bear."

"If you look in any garden, you will always find a teddy bear," said Hilyer recalling her role as the bear.

It became a valuable lesson for the future top citizen — everyone has something they can contribute, she said.

Hilyer was honoured for her volunteer work with Pelham Cares, St. John Ambulance, the March of Dimes and Kirk-on-the-Hill Presbyterian Church. In 2008, she was honoured by the province with an Ontario Senior Achievement Award.

Hilyer has been president of Pelham Cares for 12 years.

With her little dog Scooter II, she held a record for the number of visits she made in the St. John Ambulance therapy dog program. The 17-1/2-year-old dog died last year.

Mayor Dave Augustyn praised Hilyer for her work with Pelham Cares and for her ability to tap volunteers.

He said Pelham Cares stores donated food across the town, including at Old Pelham Town Hall, where the Fonthill and District Kinsmen Club was holding Hilyer's celebration dinner last week.

"I'm surprised she hasn't put us to work in the back room sorting," Augustyn said. Hilyer jumped in: "How about tomorrow?"

It brought a roar from the room full of her friends and admirers.

Former Niagara College president Jackie Roberts recalled Hilyer's years in local administration.

"They first met when Hilyer was women's adviser to the president. She scolded the president for her language such as using

"mailman" instead of "postperson."

When Hilyer left after their first meeting, Roberts wondered if she would ever be able to work with that person.

But she soon found Hilyer had a great ability to organize people.

"She is a great friend who thinks not of herself but of others," said Roberts. "She does care for people. It's in Gail's heart."

In her thank-you speech, Hilyer admitted to a quirk. She doesn't take phone calls after 9 p.m.

"I hung up on the lieutenant-governor's office before they could explain who they were," she said.

And she almost did it again earlier this month when Kinsmen president Brian Iggulden "blurted out citizen of the year" before she hung up.

Hilyer stressed that as a community "we have to work together" to accomplish anything. She referred to quote she had just read. It said snowflakes by themselves are very fragile "but look at what they do when they stick together."

In addition to a plaque from the Kinsmen for being the 12th citizen of the year, Hilyer received certificates from the federal and provincial governments as well as the Town of Pelham.

In an interview, Hilyer said she was moved by all the people who attended the dinner and sent congratulations.

"I'm really honoured and I will do my best to continue to be a role model," she said, referring to the Kinsmen's goal of choosing people who will inspire contributions to the community.

She had advice for people interested in volunteering.

"Just come out, please don't think there isn't something you can do."

wcampbell@wellandtribune.ca

WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Gail Hilyer, 2009 Pelham citizen of the year, is joined by former citizens of the year during a Fonthill and District Kinsmen Club awards ceremony Tuesday. From left front are, Carolyn Mullin, 1998, Hilyer and Anne Robbins, 2003; in back Gerry Berkhout, 2005; Catherine Kuckyt, 2004; and George Kowalski, 2002.

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WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Gail Hilyer is honoured as the 2009 Pelham citizen of the year by Fonthill and District Kinsmen during a dinner at the Old Pelham Town Hall last week.



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perspective



Wayne Campbell
EDITOR

comment

What does the budget mean for your wallet?

At the Feb. 16 regular meeting, council approved the town's 2010 operating budget.

What does that mean for your pocket book?

Well, the average residential property value for 2010 is expected to be \$260,000. If your home and property were assessed at that value, you would be paying an additional \$31, or a total of \$1,247 on the Pelham portion of your property bill. This accounts for an increase of 2.6% for the average residential property in Pelham.

What are the reasons for this increase?

Well, first there are a number



Dave Augustyn
MAYOR'S VIEW

of uncontrollable cost escalations facing the town's operations. For example, while insurance premiums were stable last year, this year they will increase by 7%. Similarly, the cost of employee benefits did not increase at all last year; this year the same benefits package will increase by 7%.

In addition, last year's council made staffing changes. We made the fire prevention officer full time, and a full-

time bylaw officer and an assistant recreation manager. These employees were budgeted to start part way through the year; we now have to annualize their wages. And, effective this month, we hired an IT person to integrate our systems with technology and to help find more efficiencies.

Council also accepted the treasurer's suggested decreases in some of the town's revenues. For instance, over the last number of years, the Town has consistently over-budgeted on revenues from new developments: the 2010 budget fits that assumption.

See AUGUSTYN | Page 12

The award goes to ...

If he Academy Awards are coming up, Arnie's tired.
 Not because he thinks the Academy Award production is the greatest show on Earth. His pretty sure he's with the majority in thinking that it's an overly long, sometimes annoying, sometimes annoying, spotty and overblown industry self-congratulatory affair.



Arnie Dwyer
OPINION

Nope, this year, he'll be tuned in the same way we were tuned into the Golden Globes, sometimes amused. Sometimes a little bored and, for maybe seven or eight vital minutes, so focused on the TV that another person entering the room would be out with the greeting: SHSHSH SANDRA'S on.

Now, Arnie doesn't always watch the Academy Awards Show, let alone the Golden Globes Telecast. Because the Globes is kind of like watching the players take batting practice before the big game. And these awards are voted on by the "tiny cadre of obscure international journalists" known as the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, so their legitimacy is often called into question.

But they do seem to swing more than a few votes and therefore have some significant influence on who wins Oscars a month or so later, at the "The Show" as the ball players call the major leagues.

But in the purely immediate tense, it's all about: SHSHSH SANDRA'S on.

Ever since Paula Abdul left (oh, alright, got forced off - outwitted, outlasted, outplayed - outcast from the Survivor's Island known as *American Idol*), Arnie's become almost totally dependent on his other grade four style crush, Sandra Bullock.

Arnie watched most of the auditions during last year's final season and, even discounting the pathos of watching those delusional people who sing worse than he does, but think they're better than Pavarotti, it's just making him feel sad. Because, just like he knew it would never again be the same, it isn't the same.

Now it's Simon Cowell's leaving the show after its big show, rolling his eyes at her like she was some kind of "Loser" I've never seen before but he's nearly as big crush on Paula as Arnie does. It's like the other kind of grade four kid - the kid who pulls the ponytail out of the winner's hair in front of him because he's desperate to get her attention but lacks the social skills to do it right.

See DYKER | Page 5

Sound and flurry

Two bylaws, a proposed one about noise control and a recently enacted one about snow removal from sidewalks, are keeping town councillors phones ringing and e-mail inboxes filled.

Ward 3 Coun. John Durley raised both bylaws during council's general committee meeting Monday.

He said the noise bylaw, which is posted on the town's website www.pelham.ca, has stirred up interest and concern.

He suggested holding a public meeting to bring all ideas together.

Ward 2 Coun. Sharon Cook said the bylaw "could change the culture of the community."

Planning director Craig Larmour said he planned to bring in a report at the next council meeting on March 15. It would summarize comments made about the bylaw.

Councillors could then move ahead from there when they reflect on comments from people who talk quiet at 11 p.m. is great while others prefer 11 p.m. he said.

We will hear more yelling over the noise control bylaw in the near future.

Council, however, made the right decision when it sought public input. Unfortunately, the public doesn't speak with one voice.

Meanwhile, the snow removal bylaw, which came into effect on Jan. 1, has seen a flurry of comments, said Durley.

Community and infrastructure services director Kelly Walcott said the bylaw has been successful on the whole and the number of properties not adhering to the bylaw are small.

About 30 properties have not acted on notices. They were cleared and will eventually be billed through their taxes.

See PERSPECTIVE | Page 5

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Important work completed in past few weeks

During the last few weeks that I've spent in the constituency I am very pleased with the amount of work that has been accomplished.

The opportunities that I have had to meet with local business owners and government officials at all levels have yielded positive results for our riding which I am pleased to report on now.

One of the results of the meetings that were held has been the contribution of \$2 million that I was pleased to announce jointly with our minister of state for science and technology, Gary Goodyear, for the construction of Canada Bread Co.'s new, state-of-the-art production facility in Glanbrook.

Canada Bread will be the first anchor tenant in the North Glanbrook Industrial Business Park and will invest over \$100 million to construct a 33,730-square-metre bakery facility. The new world-class plant will feature leading-edge equip-



Dean Allison
MPSVIEW

ment and best-in-class technologies. It will also support up to 300 new jobs and create about 120 construction-related jobs during the construction phase of the project.

I was also pleased to meet with stakeholders of the Vineland Research and Innovation Centre to hear from them regarding their recent application for funding under our government's FedDev program. Ongoing research and a focus on commercialization will result in more jobs, a more competitive horticulture industry and a stronger economy. With the return of Parliament now upon us, I will be lobbying further to try and secure this funding for the greater benefit of our area.

A number of important poverty organizations also con-

tacted me to speak in Ottawa over the past few weeks to share with them the work that I have been doing as the chair of the Human Resources, Skills Development & Status of Persons with Disabilities (HRSD) Parliamentary Committee. These roundtables included the Dignity for All Campaign which met at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and the Sandy Hill Interfaith Group. I found that the dialogue generated by these discussions was very constructive.

In addition to consultations and discussions, I have had countless meetings with individuals requiring my intervention as your MP for things such as immigration and citizenship issues and other federal programs. These have been a very busy past few weeks.

I had been looking forward to March 3 for our government's new budget that will be delivering solid measures for getting our country's economy back on track.

■ DYKER

Pretend world nothing but silliness

FROM PAGE 4

Unlike Simon, Arn has social skills. It's just that, unlike Simon, Arnne doesn't actually know Paula. He knows an image he's seen on the television twice a week, four months a year, for what is it, eight years now?

Before any of the hundreds of thousands of women who regularly read this column start snickering about Old Arn's illusions and delusions, please try to remember: there is another side to this coin.

Every woman Arnne does actually know is goggle-eyed over Robert Downey Jr., because he's a beautiful and somewhat flawed human being, and George Clooney because, well, he's George Clooney.

Exact same thing as Arn and his two grade-school style crushes: Paula — beautiful and somewhat flawed.

And Sandra. Only perfect, that's all. Plus, Arnne really does know Sandra. He's watched ALL her movies AND has spent more than a little time with her. George Lopez reruns on the Latino TV station. When you spend this much time with someone, it's just like dating.

So it's hardly some kind of naive schoolboy thing that prompted Arn to declare, as she was picking up her personal "Best Actress" Golden Globe, for her serious role in the very good film *The Blind Side*, tears of pride flowing down his cheeks: "I always knew she was the funniest lady in the

history of the world ... beautiful, too. But she's so DEEP.

I've been having a hard time re-connecting to the outside world ever since Paula left the neighbourhood, but I think I've finally fallen in love again.

The thing is, the news of the world brings terrible things to our doorsteps every day, and these kinds of silly pretend fantasies, like the majority of cinema itself (certainly the majority of Hollywood cinema) are just that — pleasant and light diversions from what are the sometimes harsh realities out there, and harmless fun.

It isn't like Arnne really figures he'll be going out on a date with Sandra, or Paula, tomorrow night, any more than his wife carries the delusion that Robert Downey will be around later this evening to pick her up in his Maserati.

The strange thing is, though, that either one of them has a better shot at it than most of those poor nuts who actually seem to believe that "I'm the Next Arnne" is a pretend world is nothing more than light-hearted silliness.

The other one — the truly deluded people mixed in with the truly talented, who truly believe that that's the way they belong in.

That's truly disturbing. Yet it's presented as entertainment. And, perhaps sadly, it is at least somewhat entertaining.

And that, too, is a harsh reality.

■ PERSPECTIVE

Snow bylaw has mild winter warmup

FROM PAGE 4

"We've been very forgiving," he said about enforcement. Walsh encouraged residents to follow not only the letter of the law but also its spirit, which is intended to create a walkable community.

In May or June he will bring in a report with suggestions for next year. This has been a mild winter. We've had about three major snowfalls. If everything it has given Pelham a gentle warmup to the bylaw showing its obvious strengths and weaknesses.

■ MONTESSORI: Preschoolers mark 100-day milestone



Supplied photo

Recently, the students at Fort Hill Montessori Preschool in Fort Hill celebrated 100 days of school. The children made a special craft and enjoyed some cake made and decorated by the JK/SK class.

Ask the HEALTH EXPERT

KATE RHEAUME-BLUE B.Sc.N.D.

Abdominal Fat and Insomnia



Can't sleep? Got a few extra pounds around the waistline? Turns out there may be an important connection between these two seemingly unrelated health conditions.

Researchers at Vancouver's Canadian Center for Functional Medicine discovered this as yet unpublished phenomenon whilst conducting clinical trials on PolyGlycoplex (PGX) for weight loss. PGX is a combination of natural soluble fibres that has been extensively studied for its ability to help people lose weight, reduce the glycemic index of foods, improve insulin sensitivity and reduce cholesterol.

Within only a few weeks of the start of the weight loss studies, participants began to report greatly improved sleep. Since sleep quality was not a parameter being measured in the studies, the evidence was gathered informally. However, so many people reported the same effect that the situation warranted closer investigation. A common pattern began to emerge: people sleep better when blood sugar levels stabilize.

It seems that many nighttime awakenings are

associated with sudden changes in blood glucose. When blood sugar levels plummet, the body responds by producing adrenalin to ensure glucose supply to the brain. This middle-of-the-night adrenalin surge can wake you from a deep sleep. PGX was shown to stabilize to daily (and nightly) glycemic fluctuations.

Overweight individuals — and those with excess abdominal fat in particular — tend to have blood sugar levels that change erratically throughout the day. This leaves them prone to blood glucose swings during sleep, with 3 am being a common wakening hour.

This finding brings to light a new connection between sleep quality and body weight. It may also point the way towards a novel therapy that treats the root cause of insomnia: stabilizing blood sugar levels. PGX is available in several forms including softgels called PGX Daily.

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■ **ST. ALEX:** Glass Tiger singer pays a visit

Believing with a star

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

For rock star Alan Frew it was a new experience — speaking at a school assembly.

The Glass Tiger lead singer, Juno award winner and Grammy nominee called his appearance at St. Alexander Catholic School "a ton of fun."

He said in an interview Tuesday after taking and singing with students in the Fonthill school's gymnasium he was impressed by the passion they had as they celebrated the Olympics dressed in red and white.

Students sang his song *I Believe* — the CTV theme for the broadcaster's Olympic coverage.

Leading it were Alyssa Girotti, Alyna Rossi, Madalaine Jones, Cassandra Moldovan and Bianca Desroches. They said they practised every day for a week and were very nervous going in.

With students, Frew sang *Free To Be*, the Leaf's song, as they yelled "Go Canada Go." It was "the first time I've sung it in public, the kids were great. I was really touched," he later said.

Frew's appearance at St. Alexander came through a family friend.

Theater Tracy Brioux said it started as a "wouldn't it be nice" thought and came about because Frew was in the area.

"Wouldn't be neat if he came, we thought," she said Tuesday. "And it was."

The musician, singer, songwriter, motivational speaker and author said he has spent the past three years promoting his book, *The Action Sandwich*.

"Usually I speak to groups of big grown-ups and talk about passion and life," he said about his recent appearances before corporate and group meetings.

On Tuesday he gave students a taste of his *Action Sandwich*. It stresses being receptive to new ideas. It's about the desire to succeed and determination of never giving up.

"When I was a little boy in Scotland I had a dream to be like a band called the Beatles," Frew told the students.

Not only did he listen to them he wanted to be them. That's when his ambition took hold.

Frew said he always was interested in motivational writers a Wayne Dyer, Tony Robbins and Napoleon Hill.

He said his own book started out as a memoir of moving to Canada and succeeding in the music business.

He said it was a lot of funny little stories," he said.

His publisher said he could make his memoirs much more.

He now is considering a book for children.

"I feel inspired by you," he told the stu-



Alan Frew, who co-wrote the Olympics theme song, meets with St. Alexander school students, Wayne Campbell Staff Photo

dents during the assembly.

Frew will soon travel to Afghanistan to entertain the troops. He gave the students a passionate defence of Canada's role in Afghanistan.

"We're not there fighting a war," he said. "There are little boys and girls like you who want to go to school, worship in their own way and play."

Canadian soldiers went overseas to protect these children, he said.

In an interview later Frew said he "stumbled" into supporting the troops and their

role in Afghanistan. He went on "a Bob Hope-type entertainment tour to Bosnia" where he became hooked on what Canadian troops were doing.

"Each individual Canadian must take up their own mind" about Afghanistan, he said.

Some artists have websites "that say click here" to oppose the Canadian action, he said, adding he doesn't think they've been educated to issues involved.

wucampbell@wellandtribune.ca

localbrief

MANY HANDS NEEDED

Niagara College's Many Hands Project is looking for a helping hand. The Many Hands Project, in its 13th year, is renovating The Happy Place Art Studio for the non-profit in the Orchard Programming for the Arts organization.

The project was looking for an electrician

to assist as a volunteer on Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It also needs volunteers to serve on cleanup and setup crews on Wednesdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Thursdays from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

to help, contact Catherine Cifoni by phone at 905-641-2252 ext. 6404 or by e-mail: cifonistudents@niagaracollege.ca.

■ ST. ALEX: Raising funds for juvenile diabetes



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Four students at St. Alexander Catholic School in Fonthill raised \$454.50 for juvenile diabetes research through their second bake sale at the school Tuesday.

From left, Erin Sykes, Meaghan Lancione, Shannon Ruzzys and Chris Tsiantoulas cheer the success of the sale. The fundraiser included a draw for prizes from the Canadian Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. This is the second year the students have held a fundraiser to help a cause.

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■ **OLYMPIC ART:** Martha Southwell's work on display in national exhibition

Ahete's portrait an ace

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — Fonthill portrait artist Martha Southwell looked for a look.

When she took photos of Paralympian Yann Mathieu, she said she wanted to catch his intensity as he prepared for a tennis match.

She apparently caught it and conveyed it well in her oil painting portrait of the Quebec athlete.

It was chosen by a jury for a display in the Portrait Society of Canada's national exhibition called Canadian Olympic Athletes: A Dialogue in Art.

It opened March 2 for a month-long exhibit at the John B. Aird Gallery in Toronto.

The exhibition features portraits of 34 Olympic athletes in various media including sculpture, said Southwell. The featured works will be on display and for sale.

They include ones that feature summer Olympians such as Donovan Bailey and Alex Baumann, winter stars such as Joannie Rochette and Clara Hughes, and former winners Barbara Ann Scott and Silken Laumann.

Mathieu, from Trois Rivières, competed in singles and pairs tennis at the 2008 Beijing Para-

lympic Games and is training for the 2012 Olympics in London.

Southwell said she met Mathieu through her daughter Nausha, who is also a wheelchair tennis athlete.

"The Paralympians are very good about working with the younger athletes and helping them out," she said.

Mathieu is ranked No. 2 in Canada and 22nd in the world. Southwell took the photos she used for the portrait just before he went into a match.

"I wanted that 'I'm ready' look," she said.

Some call it the "game face."

In painting the portrait, Southwell adjusted the colour of the background to reflect Mathieu's eyes.

She said that his red shirt was a special challenge.

"Red is a difficult colour to work with," she said. "If you make it too bright, it takes away from the picture. If you make it too dull, it lacks impact."

Also, Southwell said the wheelchair had to be the right one, on the right angles, it's specially designed for tennis.

She worked with Mathieu as she created the portrait, sending him e-mail copies of the work in progress.

For Southwell, this is the

second time she has had a portrait in this annual show. The first one was one of her daughter preparing to play. That portrait recently won in a juried show with the Pelham Festival of the Arts.

Southwell is a regular at the Pelham Art Festival in May.

She has been a full-time artist for about 15 years although she's been drawing since college.

Her subjects include people, wildlife, landscape, architecture and vintage cars. In her Fonthill home studio, she was working on a commission work of child on a ski lift for a Vancouver resident.

Canadian Olympic Athletes: A Dialogue in Art is open Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the gallery in the MacDonald Block (900 Bay St., Toronto).

The paintings will be auctioned for sale on eBay at www.ebay.ca or through www.portraitsociety.ca.

ucampbell@wellandtribune.ca

WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo
Pelham portrait artist Martha Southwell will have this painting of Olympic wheelchair tennis player Yann Mathieu in a national exhibition by the Portrait Society of Canada.



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localbrief

SITE REZONED FOR FIRE STATION

Town council on Monday approved a rezoning of a property on Welland Rd. in Fenwick to make way for a new Fenwick fire station.

The former greenhouse site backs onto Centennial Park and will accommodate a new fire station to replace Pelham Fire Station No. 2 at Welland and Canboro Rds.

The new fire station will be 329 square metres (10,000 square feet) beside a parking lot. The drive-through station was designed by the Fenwick volunteer firefighters. The rezoning was completed by the site straddling the Fenwick urban area and a greenbelt section.

The original plans, which would have put the parking lot in the greenbelt section, were altered to put both the building and the parking lot within the urban area.

Pelham has received federal and provincial infrastructure funding that it will match with town funds to build the fire hall.

Mayor Dave Augustyn said Monday after the rezoning was passed the town will have to move quickly to meet deadlines for construction of the fire station.

Current fire station site is expected to become the home of a Maple Ace branch of the Pelham Public Library.

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■ MARCH BREAK: Town's camp returns

Fun in store

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

Pelham Arena is home base for almost 50 children for a week in March.

The town's March Break Camp has lined up activities, entertainment and trips to keep the group of four to 12-year-olds hopping through the annual school break.

"We will have swimming in Fort Erie and teddy bears at Ball's Falls," said community services co-ordinator Jessica Ruddell.

The week will include a visit from London Reptiles and a concert by musician Eric Traplin. The concert in the arena's community room is held in co-operation with Pelham Public Library's March break program.

Throughout the week, there will be crafts, skating and other activities.

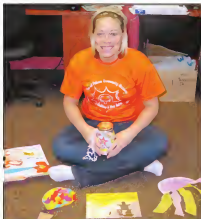
Ruddell said the cost of lunches is being covered by Branch 613 Royal Canadian Legion and will be provided by Subway, Mossimos and the Wildflower Market.

"The sponsorship is something new this year," Ruddell said. The camp can accommodate 49 youngsters to keep the instructor to camper ratio at 1:7, she said. The program includes five leaders in training for 13- to 17-year-olds. For \$75, they will receive experience to apply toward becoming camp leaders in the future.

"We don't guarantee anyone a position in the future but it will be useful experience," said Ruddell.

Campers can sign up for a full week at \$130 per child or \$340 per family with three children. They can sign up for a day at \$40 per child or \$110 per family of three children.

For details and sign up sheets see the town's website at www.pelham.ca. Sheets are available at town hall. For more information call 905-892-2607 ext 329.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Pelham community services co-ordinator Jessica Ruddell gets in the March Break spirit by practicing her crafts. The town is taking registrations for its March Break Camp at Pelham Arena.

The week's lineup is:

Marvelous Monday – visit from London Reptiles and public skating.

Terrific Tuesday – Swimming at the Fort Erie YMCA in the morning and outdoor games and crafts at the Pelham Arena.

Wonderful Wednesday – Concert with musician Eric Traplin who performs throughout Canadian along with skating, games and crafts.

Thank Goodness It's Thursday – Day of snowshoeing or hiking at Ball's Falls along with an education session on the evolution of the teddy bear. It's an exhibit by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority at conservation centre.

Finally Friday – a day of skating, outdoor games, crafts and a dance.

■ AGRICULTURE: Fruit and Vegetable Convention held at Brock

Farmers seek good news

MATTHEW VAN DONGEN
QMI Agency

ST. CATHARINES — When life gives you lemons, make lemonade. It also works with apples, according to Paul Moyer.

The Vineland farmer has made a national name for himself by turning his formerly hard-to-sell crop of Crispins into candy apples, a bold move that eventually landed Moyer on the CBC news reality show *Dragons' Den* in 2008.

He brought his message of hope — that beleaguered farmers can survive with a little creativity and a "value-added" product — to the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Convention at Brock University.

"I'm not a millionaire by any means ... am I succeeding? Yes. Am I working 20 hours a day? Also yes," said Moyer, who called his seminar *How to Make Lemonade from Apples*.

"The bottom line is I'm still growing and selling my own apples and I'm proud to do so. That's a good news story to me."

Local farmers are looking for good news after a couple of borderline growing seasons, skyrocketing production prices and competition from cheap foreign imports, said event chairman Tony Sgambelluri.

Last week's conference hit on varying topics, from battling disease to wind machine research to making farm visits attractive for consumers. Niagara West-Glanbrook MPP and Progressive Conservative Leader

Tim Hudak also spoke at the conference on the future of agriculture.

"Finding a market for our products is pretty much at the top of everyone's list," Sgambelluri said.

Moyer agreed.

"Everyone is looking for 'the next thing,'" said Moyer, who is now also growing wheat to make pasta.

"They need to make their operations sustainable."

That's become almost impossible for Ontario's horticultural industry, according to some industry representatives.

Late last year, the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers' Association asked regional council to support its request for government intervention in the reeling industry.

Association chairwoman Brenda Lammens told councillors the tender fruit industry faced "a crisis" that could kill "thousands of on-farm jobs" in places such as Niagara.

Council voted to support the association's request for a provincial risk-management program for fruit and vegetable growers.

More than 1,200 people were signed up for the two-day conference, which featured 80 possible seminars and more than 160 trade show booths at the St. Catharines university.

Despite the grim industry news, Sgambelluri said farmers are "resiliently optimistic."

"It's amazing, even being dealt two bad hands in a row, our farmers are still excited about doing what they love," he said.

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■ **MARCH BREAK:** Pelham library has plenty in store to keep busy during week off school

Some programs 'fill up pretty fast'

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

March break at the library provides activities for children but also exposure for the library.

It's a chance for parents and children who are often very busy with other activities through the winter to see and experience the library, said children's services coordinator Jennifer Bennett.

"They are often tied up with music, hockey, dance, school and other activities so they don't get to the library as often," she said.

By March break those things are often over and the parents are home, she said.

"The March break program gives us good exposure to both parents and kids," she said.

Registrations are up for programs running between Monday, March 15, and Friday, March 19.

"Some fill up fairly fast," said Bennett.

A live concert in the community room at the Pelham Arena is always popular, she said.

This year it will feature Erick Traplin who plays guitar, harmonica and tub for children of all ages.

The 2 p.m. concert, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, is held in conjunction with the town's March break camp on Wednesday, March 17. Tickets at \$4 have to be bought in advance at the library.

Other shows during the week are: The Magic of Bob Armstrong at the Fonthill branch of the library at 1:30 p.m.

on Tuesday, March 16, tickets \$4; and Reptile Kingdom with local reptile expert Mike London at the Fonthill branch 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, tickets \$4.

Two free movies will be shown during the week and you can bring your own munchies.

At the Maple Acre branch you can catch *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* at 2 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, at 2 p.m. It's sponsored by the Friends of Maple Acre.

At the Fonthill branch, on Friday March 19 at 1:20 p.m. there will be a movie that has yet to be announced.

Other activities through the week are: Finger Painting and more for children five and up on Monday, March 15, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Fonthill branch, \$3.

Hanna Montana Hoedown Throwdown for ages five and up. It's a chance to dance on Tuesday, March 16, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Fonthill branch, \$2.

Plasticine Art for ages four and up on Friday, March 19, from 11 a.m. to noon. Make hanging art with modeling clay and a recycled CD case, \$3.

Creepy crawler story time with bugs at the Maple Acre branch on Monday, March 15, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. for ages three and up cost \$3.

St. Patty's Story time and crafts for ages two to five at the Fonthill branch from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 17, cost \$3.

Noisy Noises In the silence of the library with noisy music, noisy books and audience participation on Thursday, March 18, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. cost \$3.



Supplied photo

Aiden Ellsworth, 5, a student at St. Alexander Catholic School checks out March break activities to take place at Pelham Public Library. Registrations are being taken for programs during the Monday, March 15, to Friday, March 19, closing of schools.

"We can show our resources, activities and books to the kids," said Bennett, "and we hope they will want to come back."

■ **LAST BIG SNOWFALL?** Heeding Pelham's new shovelling bylaw



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo
Mercedes Siebert, owner of Sadies Lingerie in Fonthill, clears snow from in front of her shop following a snowfall last Friday morning. Pelham has a new snow removal bylaw requiring the clearing of snow from sidewalks in front of homes and businesses within 24 hours of a snowfall. Siebert said she doesn't mind. The exercise is good for her and it clears the way for customers. Besides, there has been little snow this winter.

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Phone Code: Ext. #

Age: ☐ 0-12 ☐ 13-18

Category: ☐ Child to be Kind ☐ Against the Odds ☐ Personal Best

NOMINATOR'S DESCRIPTION:

localbrief

CRASH IN RURAL PELHAM

Two people were taken to St. Catharines General Hospital following a single-vehicle collision in Pelham last Wednesday afternoon.

A blue GMC pickup truck with two occupants struck a large tree on a private property on Roland Rd. off of Sulphur Spring Dr.

The driver of the truck, a man in his 60s, suffered chest injuries and was charged at the scene with impaired driving. The woman in the passenger seat was also taken to hospital for observations.

Niagara Regional Police Sgt. Neal Orlando said the truck came around a corner and left the road on the north shoulder and collided with the tree. There was damage to the front end of the truck.

The driver didn't take a breathalyzer test but Orlando said evidence that was gathered Wednesday was enough to believe he was impaired. The road was wet at the time of the collision, however Orlando said it wasn't a factor in the crash.

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Nominees must be a resident of Pelham, Port Colborne, Welland or Niagara. Their accomplishments must have occurred within the past year. There is a \$500 award for all nominees. No additional reward will be accepted. Judges will also select nominees from 1-10 as follows:

- What has the nominee accomplished during the past year?
- How has the accomplishment impacted on themselves and/or others?
- Why did the nominee not go to the next level?

COOL TO BE KIND Nominees will have performed a service or act of kindness, support or encouragement to a friend, family, neighbor or stranger with no personal gain for themselves. This could be an ongoing or one-time service to an individual, group or community.

PERSONAL BEST Nominees will have achieved a level of performance beyond what might have been expected. This could mean winning a top performance award or performance to the best of their ability.

AGAINST THE ODDS Nominees will have shown great strength, ambition and dedication in overcoming a mental, physical, personal, economic or environmental challenge to achieve a goal.

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■ GLYNN A. GREEN: Bringing the Games home

Catching Olympic fever

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

Glynn A. Green Public School staff set out to give their students a taste of what Olympic athletes are going through.

"It's a little taste for sure," said teacher Shawn Haining.

"But it will give them a chance to feel pride, patriotism and teamwork," added Haining, who directed the organization of the school's daylong Olympic Games.

Grade 7 and 8 students acted as officials with clipboards and stopwatches while most other students were divided into teams of mixed grades representing a half-dozen countries.

"It gives the Grade 8s a chance to work as role models."

Four scaled-down events include bobsledding on plastic sleds down a hill in the school's playground.

There was a hockey game with plastic sticks and a ball on the tarmac. The biathlon involved crawling through hoops. Curling was played with balls on a windy cold soccer field.

In the gym, students turned to flag-making rather than flag waving.

Opening ceremonies included a Olympic torch used in the Olympic Torch Relay, a popular video of the theme song I Believe and singing O Canada.

Haining in his outline to the students stressed that performance alone would not win the day for any of the national teams. They had to earn "spirit points" given for their cheering, participation in events, sportsmanship toward other teams

and determination to succeed. Glynn A. Green students had an example to follow. A former student, 17-year-old women's snowboarder Palmer Taylor, was Canada's youngest Olympian competing at Vancouver.

Principal Sandy Giancarlo said the school students and staff wanted to watch Taylor's attempt to qualify last week but it took place after school hours. However, the students did imitate her during their Olympics.

Giancarlo said the emphasis was as much on cheering, sportsmanship and fitness as on competition. The way the day is tied into the Vancouver Olympics may be something the students will remember all their lives.

wcampbell@wellandtribune.ca



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photos
Clockwise from top: Bailea Watt holds hoops for competitors on a biathlon course; Erica Wilson compares the flag she drew with a Chinese flag during a flag-making session, while holding the model flag are Megan Witterick, left, and Caitlin MacDonald; Veja Lianga, left, Shaela Prado, Christie Iran and Brook Andrus work on the flag of France; Olympic hockey Glynn A. Green style involved plastic sticks and a ball on the school's tarmac; Halden Moss, Brett Young and Nicholas Loscavo prepare for a bobsled run.



■ AUGUSTYN

Council acting prudently with your money

FROM PAGE 5

And, you might find it interesting that nearly half (or 1.2%) of the 2.6% increase this year is to take care of unfunded capital expenses from 2004.

You see, in 2004 the town spent 411,230 on fire fighting equipment; but, it wasn't actually debentured (mortgaged) as was planned. Instead, the debt appeared on subsequent financial statements as to be paid by "future revenue."

Last year, council decided to deal with the debt, and established a five year repayment plan.

As a result, the 2010 operating budget includes an additional \$103,000 to deal with this debt.

Interestingly, if we didn't have pay for this unfunded debt, the budget would have increased at the projected rate of inflation for 2010 (or 1.4%).

To put the 2010 increase into perspective, the previous council increased the Pelham portion of your property taxes by 14.8% in 2004, 16.1% in 2005, and 5.6% in 2006. This council increased your property taxes by 4.7% in 2007, 4.5% in 2008, 1.8% in 2009 and now 2.6% in 2010.

Rest assured that this council acts prudently with your money.

If you would like additional information about the 2010 operating budget, please visit the Town's website at www.pelham.ca.

You may contact Mayor Dave at mayoradave@pelham.ca or read past columns at www.pelhammayoradave.blogspot.com.

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT ONTARIO'S NEW TAX PACKAGE

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■ **RECYCLING:** Real fashion sense

Turning old clothing into new styles

For PelhamNEWS

A wedding dress and tuxedo enhanced with recycled material hit the stage at a fashion show at Jordan's Beacon Hotel last weekend.

The dress and tux were put together by Art2, a In the Orchard Programming for the Arts project.

Working out of the Happy Place Art Studio members of the after school program used a wedding dress and tux from the Salvation Army.

"They turned them into a colourful creation that has been spray painted, duct taped, painted, and given a unique look," said program co-ordinator Ardiene Berg.

They included words tied to marriage such as love, sex, arguing, delusion, commitment, grief, laundry, honesty and listening.

The fashion show was a fundraiser for Niagara College's Many Hands Project, which is renovating the Happy Place studio for use of in the Orchard Programming for the Arts.

Berg said the program is still encouraging registration of local high school students.

"Our program runs from 4-6 p.m. every Wednesdays and 4-7 p.m. every Friday featuring a local artist each week," she said.

The artist demonstrates creative art techniques such as making old jeans into purses and wallets, scarves from old sweaters and making necklaces from old jewelry.

She said the program is looking for a student from Notre Dame to serve as a liaison or for any student from the local high schools who need any volunteer hours.

Please contact orchardartsclub@gmail.com to send a resume or drop in during program hours.

"Artist Angie Geiss is going into local schools to run an Earth Art workshop for any school that is interested in this



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

Angie Geiss, executive director of In the Orchard Programming for the Arts, holds a wedding dress beside a groom's tuxedo which will be part of a show of materials recycled into art.

opportunity. If your schools would like to take advantage of this we need you to sign up now," said Berg.

Contact Geiss at thpartstudio@yahoo.ca.

"We would like to thank Benjamin Moore for donating the paint for the Wedding dress and suit. As well, a big thanks to The Many Hands Project from Niagara College that is doing an amazing job renovating the studio."

■ **HOUSING:** Tory leader addresses stakeholders

Hudak backs builders

DON FRASER
QMI Agency

The province must support home builders, who are key to the province's economic recovery, provincial Conservative Leader Tim Hudak said last week.

And, Hudak said in a speech to the Niagara Home Builders' Association, measures must be in place to allow that sector to thrive and create jobs.

At the dinner meeting, Hudak hammered the provincial government for its taxation and regulation policies that he said are hurting the housing industry.

"I believe a home is not simply a commodity to be taxed like it's some luxury item," he told the group at Thorold's Four Points by Sheraton.

"A home is where we raise our children and it's a place of comfort and security."

"It's also the single biggest investment the vast majority of us will make in our lifetime."

Hudak said that dream has faded over the past year or so, especially in recession-ravaged Niagara.

He said his administration would focus on policies to bolster the economy and housing sector.

Those measures include tax relief, a job creation program, cutting red tape and avoiding "corporate welfare schemes."

He would also scrap Bill 119, which makes independent operators and sole proprietors in construction subject to Workplace Safety and Insurance Board compensation coverage.

"It forces employers to pay WSIB premiums for office and secretarial workers who may never set foot on a construction site," Hudak said. "It is an unfair burden on employers."

Hudak also stressed that he continued to oppose the Ontario Harmonized Sales Tax slated to take effect in July.

"It will hit homeowners and all Ontario families," he said. "And (it impacts) on the homebuilding and renovation sector."

Hudak also called for the "reinstatement of a red tape commission to eliminate unnecessary and redundant regulations."

A renewed energy policy that includes more nuclear power is also part of his economic plan.

Finally, "governments need to learn to live within their means again," he said.

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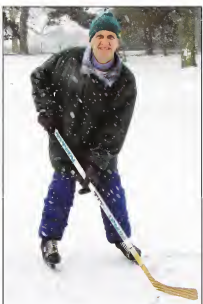
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sports

■ STAYING ACTIVE: Get in the game



WAYNE CAMPBELL, Staff Photo

Andre Lemieux, 65, says age shouldn't deter you. He hadn't been on skates much since he was a child. A couple of weeks ago, he picked up a used pair and started skating on Welland's Chippawa Park pond. He said it feels good. He always was good at sports and this gives him something active to do.

■ BASKETBALL: Panther girls take third at tourney

Major bantam girls win bronze in Cambridge

For PelhamNEWS

The Pelham Panthers major bantam girls won bronze at a Cambridge tournament to mark the weekend of Feb. 13. Playing a late game on the Friday night, the girls managed to stay awake long enough to win against Wallaseburg Basketball girls 29-24.

The next day brought excitement while playing the Sudbury Selects girls. Pelham had a 13-point spread, but lost it in the fourth quarter, and struggled to keep a two-point lead, winning the game 42-40.

In the semifinal game, the girls played a fast game against the Blessed Sacrament 2. Although, they played a good defensive game they lost to the 11th-ranked team by a score of 49-28.



Supplied photo

Members of the Pelham Panthers major bantam girls basketball team who won bronze at a Cambridge tournament in February.

■ BASKETBALL: Grummett scores 33 points, Cooper posts 22 rebounds

Pelham Panthers major atom boys come up short at London tournament

For PelhamNEWS

Continuing their long inaugural season, the Pelham Panthers major atom boys basketball team trekked out to the London over the Family Day weekend to participate in the Ramblers 7th Annual Paul McCarrey Classic.

Knowing the competition would be tough, the Panthers were hopeful they could rise to the occasion. The opposition however had other ideas, and Pelham lost two of three games and did not advance to the playoff round.

The first game saw Pelham face a tough team from Sarnia in the Valhalla Vikings. The Panthers got off to a great start by playing class-

sic team basketball — executing their half-court offence and help defense almost flawlessly.

On the strength of 11 points from Tyler Grummett, Pelham seemed to be in control of the game and held a 21-14 lead at the half. Valhalla came out flying after the break and managed to take a slim one-point lead heading into the final quarter.

Sarnia really turned up the heat in the final quarter, extending their lead and posting a hard-fought 42-30 win.

Putting the Sarnia game behind them, Pelham then faced the Ancaster Magic.

Needing a win to finish second in their pool, the Panthers simply dominated the Magic. Pelham led

wire to wire and scored a convincing 40-12 win.

Next up for Pelham was a "play-in" game against the host team from London.

The Ramblers got off to a great start and held the lead the entire first half. Knowing their Sunday playoff round was in jeopardy, the Panthers came out on fire in the second half, taking a three-point lead.

London fought back and seemed to have the game locked down quickly and mounted a furious comeback. A scoring table faux pas near the end of the game

seemed to confuse the team (and the crowd), as a Bailey Moreau 3-point shot with less than a minute to go appeared to tie the game.

But after a review by the officials, the score was adjusted and as time ran out, Pelham found themselves on the wrong end of a 37-33 score.

As disappointing as the outcome was, the Pelham boys — down two players to injury — played a remarkable game and left everything on the court.

Pelham's leading scorer for the tournament was Grummett, who had 33 points on 48% shooting from the field. He added 10 rebounds, five steals and four assists.

Moreau scored 24 points and posted four assists, followed by Kyle Cooper with 14 points and a team-leading 22 rebounds.

Josh Mosley, Chris Fairman and MacKenzie "Le Bronx" helped the cause with 11, 11 and nine points respectively.

Jared Naar contributed five points, 14 rebounds and three blocked shots.

Ben Kalchman and Gabriel Marais played tough defense and were rewarded with four steals each. Jordan Pisano maximized his height by ripping down six boards.

Owen Gallagher was injured during the first game, but cheered from the bench in support of the team.

sportsbrief

HOCKEY FOR HEART

The Heart and Stroke Foundation is hosting its first ever Hockey for Heart tournament taking place March 6 and 7 at the new Ridley College Arena in St. Catharines.

Hockey for Heart is a series of adult,

recreational level hockey tournaments taking place across Ontario. The event was created by Rob Weir after he saw his father, Roger Weir, suffer a massive heart attack and die while playing in a shiny hockey game. The first tournament in Durham began with four teams and has since grown to 40 with annual

fundraising of more than \$130,000. Locals are invited to come out to watch the top fundraisers compete against the ProStars on March 6 at 7 p.m. at the Ridley College Arena. There is a chance to win silent auction prizes valued at more than \$2,000. Admission is \$2.

The event will consist of 14 teams who are ready to play a three-game tournament while raising funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Teams are fundraising to "shut out" heart disease and stroke by playing in this tournament.

Fundraisers earn amazing prizes

including the chance to play against former NHL stars in the ProStars game or to "Shoot to Win \$10,000."

Hockey for Heart has 14 events Provincially. The St. Catharines event will help to break the \$1-million barrier in total funds raised through Hockey for Heart.



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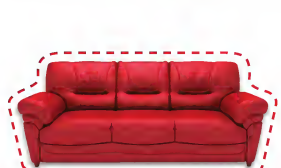
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AROUND TOWN

FRIDAY, MARCH 5

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER service at 2 p.m. at St. Ann Roman Catholic Church, 834 Canboro Rd., Fenwick. Written by the women of Cameron, the theme is "Let everything that has breath praise God." Please join us as we celebrate the World Day of Prayer. Everyone welcome.

MONDAY, MARCH 8

GRACE AND GLORY, LADIES ministry presents: Ladies Night Out. Join ladies from all over the region for a night of fun, food and fellowship - free! Bring a friend. Please register

AT THE LIBRARY

BANNED BOOK CHALLENGE

Set a goal for yourself to read as many banned or challenged books as you wish until June 30. Visit Pelham Public Library's Fahrenheit 451. Banned Book web log (www.pelhamlibrary.blogspot.com) to record your year and report on your progress. Not sure what to read? Check out the lists and links on the web log or visit the library.

AMNESTY WEEKS Return your books, CDs, DVDs by March 13 and we will waive your fines on those items. Pre-existing fines will not be waived. After March 13, you will be asked to pay off all fines on your card.

GIANT BOOK SALE Find it all - mystery, science, romance, fantasy, science fiction, adventure, intrigue, decorating, crafts, children's stories, collectables - at great prices.

your attendance. Starts 6:30 p.m., Eagles' Nest Community Church 3400 Schmon Pkwy., Thorold 905-682-9000.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

WELLAND CAMERA CLUB meeting will show the fruits of its talented photographers in the W.C. Healey Photo Essay and Special Assignment-Transportation competitions with live judging. A night of photography not to be missed, starting 7:30 p.m. at Wesley United Church, 244 First Ave. N., Welland. For more information call Larry Lanigan at 905-982-4699.

Sale ends Saturday, March 6. Final Saturday is Buck-A-Bag Day until 1 p.m. In the Festival Room, Fonthill Branch. Close to the Pelham Public Library.

BEGINNERS' TAI CHI - Nancy Elkin, registered physiotherapist, teaches these beginners' classes. Great for improving balance, co-ordination and overall movement. Wear comfortable clothes and soft-soled shoes. Mondays, March 8 to 29; 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$20 per session. Please register ahead.

GENTLE DANCE & MOVEMENT EXERCISE CLASS - Join Bonnie for beginner and gentle dance based exercise classes. Dress for comfort, wear running shoes and bring a mat or blanket. Wednesday, March 10, to May 19; 11:45 a.m.



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INTRODUCTION TO THERAPEUTIC TOUCH - Cindy from Advanced Health introduces Therapeutic Touch offers a gentle, non-invasive healing method that helps restore balance and flow within the body and facilitates its natural healing abilities. Thursday, March 11, 11 a.m. to noon. Free. Please register ahead.

SLOW COOKING FOR FAST MEALS Dust off your slow cooker. Learn how to spend less time in the kitchen and make the most of your time there. Samples, door prizes and great make-ahead recipes included. Please register ahead. Cost is \$20. Takes place Thursday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m.

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OBITUARY: John Nerry dies at 90

Fonthill Lumber founder remembered as community-minded

ALLAN BENNER
Tribune Staff

PELHAM — It didn't take long for John Nerry to take an active role in Pelham.

"Right from the first time he got here, he started doing things for the community," said retired Fonthill businessman Paul Ryan, who first met Mr. Nerry in the early 1950s — not long after Mr. Nerry moved to Pelham from Toronto.

Ryan recalled events at the town's baseball park. Mr. Nerry would arrive with a load of wood from his lumber yard to build benches to give spectators a comfortable place to sit and watch the entertainment.

That was just the start of a lifetime of giving to the community.

"Anything something had to be done, John was there," Ryan said. "He never made any fuss about it."

Mr. Nerry, the founder of Fonthill Lumber, passed away Saturday at Welland hospital. He was 90.

Gerry Berkhout said Mr. Nerry was like a father to him. "He was a really special person and he was very generous," Berkhout said. For instance, he said Mr. Nerry offered his company's trucks to help out with the Pelham Food Drive.

"Whatever the community needed, you'd just ask him. He was very kind," Ryan said.

Ryan said Mr. Nerry was never interested in accolades for the work he did. He was content to quietly work in the background.

"He just did what he thought needed to be done, and there was never any fanfare," Ryan said. "That's just the way John Nerry was. He was just a true gentleman."

In addition to the work he quietly did for the community, Mr. Nerry also made a difference through his business, providing good jobs to people who

needed them.

"He did a lot of good work that way," Ryan said.

Eleanor Arbour at Klager's Meats also recalled Mr. Nerry's generosity.

She said he was always there to help, and didn't want any recognition for the work he did.

Mayor Dave Augustyn got together with Mr. Nerry to "quite philanthropist, really. He was really generous to the community, but in a very quiet way."

Although he was always willing to help, he never wanted any publicity for it, Augustyn added.

But Mr. Nerry did have one accolade to recognize his years of dedication to his community. A few years ago, the John Nerry Nature Trail was opened near his Pelham home.

The name for the trail "was very fitting," said Berkhout, who was a member of the Friends of Marlene Stewart Street Park when the decision to name the trail after Mr. Nerry was made.

He said Mr. Nerry was an avid lover of the outdoors who spent his leisure time going for hikes in northern Ontario. It was Mr. Nerry's love of the outdoors that inspired Berkhout to suggest naming the trail after him.

"He loved the woods so much," Berkhout said, adding having that trail named after him was "very special to him, no question about it."

Augustyn said Mr. Nerry was initially reluctant to let the trail bear his name.

"That was one piece of recognition that again he didn't want," he said.

But ultimately, Mr. Nerry "accepted that honor because of his strong commitment to the outdoors."

A memorial service is to be held for Mr. Nerry today, Friday, March 5, at 11 a.m. at Fonthill United Church, 42 Church Hill.

abenner@wellandtribune.ca